

For Immediate Release

Contact: Erica Daughtrey

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*Washington, D.C.* – On Thursday, February 25, 2010, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in unanimously passing emergency legislation to extend numerous programs that are expiring. This emergency legislation is critical to millions of families who would have benefitted from an extension of unemployment benefits. Additionally, this bill would have extended subsidies for laid-off workers to help pay health premiums through COBRA and also would have extended funding to support our roads.

“Despite our bi-partisan efforts in the House, on the very same day, Senator Jim Bunning singlehandedly blocked the extension of important programs such as unemployment benefits, COBRA, and highway funding,” said Congressman Sires.

On Sunday, February 28 at midnight, nearly 1.2 million unemployed workers will become ineligible for extended federal unemployment benefits and families depending upon COBRA will lose health coverage. Allowing the highway bill to expire is placing potentially 90,000 jobs at risk during the month of March. Additionally, up to 2 million families may lose access to broadcast television signals.

“Allowing one Senator to leave thousands of American families at a financial risk during this economic downturn is outrageous,” said Congressman Sires. “Partisan games should not be played when the American people are struggling to get by every day--- Americans count on these benefits to pay their bills and feed their families.”

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